



INSTR # M2015000673  
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 CHRISTINE HALLDRAN  
 TOWN CLERK  
 EASTON CT

**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the Easton Agricultural Commission**  
**September 9, 2015 -7:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall-Meeting Room A**

**AGRICULTURAL  
 COMMISSION  
 FOR THE TOWN  
 OF EASTON  
 CONNECTICUT**

**Commission Members**

**Jean Stetz-Puchalski,  
 Chair**

**Victor Alfandre,  
 Recording Secretary**

**Laurel Fedor**

**Sal Gilbertie**

**Irv Silverman**

**Alternates:**

**Lori Cochran Dougall**

**Ray Longo**

**In attendance:** Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Victor Alfandre, Laurel Fedor, Ray Longo, Irv Silverman.  
**Absent:** Lori Cochran-Dougall, Sal Gilbertie,

**I. Call to Order: 7:35 pm**

**II. Minutes:** minutes from 7/8 revised. Motion to approve with corrections by Laurel Fedor, second by Ray Longo. In item II, "Motion" is capitalized. In item III, "Longo" is capitalized. Also in item III in the discussion about the P&Z meeting, replaced "has hired" with "solicited bids to hire"; replaced "Will send a letter..." with "Will build a distribution list; Ray Longo to research 490 holders"; replaced "Town unwilling to memorialize..." with Requested P&Z add BOS farming on town land initiative Morehouse Road plots A & B to proposed Morehouse Civic Master Map Plan – declined. Report to Board of Selectmen on 8/19. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Reports**

Motion made by Victor Alfandre to add agenda item to discuss farming on Town land at Morehouse /SSES. Seconded by Irv Silverman. Approved unanimously.

**Farming on Town Land:**

- Jean attended BOS meeting 8/19 to discuss updates on Ag commission activities. Focus on agricultural resources portal via Ag Com page on Town Website & farming initiative on Town Land. Farmer (Al Popp) reported success from the farmer's perspective. Ag Com reported success from Ag Com perspective. Reported update from P&Z declining to add project to proposed Farming initiative listed on Morehouse Civic Master Plan Map. Jean made request of BOS to exercise Extension of Lease clause in current agreement. Requested BOS permission for Farmer Popp to sell pumpkins from site. Selectmen reported that Farming initiative now listed on Morehouse Civic Master Plan Map, agreed to add agenda item to 9/3 BOS meeting to discuss and take action on extension of lease and selling of pumpkins. Tasked Jean to research previous language to grant pumpkin selling (2011, 2013).
- Jean provided research on previous language to grant pumpkin selling (2011, 2013) and attended BOS meeting 9/3. BOS motions to 1) grant permission to Sport Hill Farm to sell pumpkins on land at SSES on the following (weekend) dates in October: 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 or until pumpkins are sold and 2) exercise the extension in the lease agreement to December 2018 passed unanimously.

Ag Commission to ask farmer to share story about how they farm organically.

**Promotion of educational opportunities for Easton Farmers & Producers**

Connecticut Farm Bureau (CFB) contacted the Commission about sponsoring a meeting on 9/9 or 9/15. Commission agreed it was too late to properly promote it and Ag Commission declined sponsorship. Instead agreed to partner with Fairfield County Chapter of CFB to host a 490 talk and to sponsor a program under the CFB RMA grant in the next calendar year. Will poll farmers and Town on interest in topics. Victor Alfandre made the motion. Irv Silverman seconded; passed unanimously.

**Programs over next two months:**

- Sept 15, 2015: Transitioning the Family Farm & Use of Social Media Program at Harmony Grange, 2 Shelton Rd., Monroe, CT. Commission members to distribute flyers to farms and P & Z.
- October 6, 2015: Joan Nichols (CT farm Bureau) will come down to host a forum on tax reduction programs. Partner with Fairfield County CFB to host meeting. Location TBA.
- Considering Live streaming training opportunity to engage locations across the state.

**7th Annual Easton Farm Tour:** CFE Sponsor. 500+ people. Irv reported heavy traffic all day.

**IV New business:**

**Formation of a regional Ag council:** Discussed idea from across the state for a Fairfield County Ag council. Model is working in Middlesex. Provides another forum for addressing farming issues. Connects Fairfield County to rest of the state. For example, encouraging farmers to advocate for their needs with the consultants re-writing town regs. Will enter a discovery phase to gauge interest across Easton and the rest of Fairfield County.

Victor notified Commission that Officer Tamara French (Easton pd) has a goat farm and business selling soaps, lotions, etc.

**V Public Comment: None**

**VI Motion to Adjourn: 8:55 pm**

Minutes submitted by Victor Alfandre, Recording Secretary  
 Victor Alfandre